

Arizona's Homeland Security Strategy

As the first state to develop a statewide homeland security strategy, Arizona has been a leader on homeland security efforts.

Arizona's homeland security strategy, originally developed in 2003, identifies priority projects, including:

- Ensuring that first responders have access to personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Improving communications systems to allow first responders to communicate with one another during emergencies
- Bolstering security in the state, especially at the border and at sites with critical infrastructure
- Improving overall detection and response capabilities

Federal homeland security funds are intended to enhance the protection of Arizona's residents and critical infrastructure from potential terrorist attacks and other significant hazards. Although the focus of federal homeland security dollars continues to be terrorism prevention and response, these funds may be used to prepare for and respond to all emergency and disaster situations, whether terrorist incidents or natural disasters such as floods and wildfires.

Arizona's FY2006 homeland security projects will fall under the seven national priorities, as identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These priorities include: Implement the National Incident Management System and National Response Plan; Expand Regional Collaboration; Implement the Interim National Infrastructure Protection Plan; Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration Capabilities; Strengthen Interoperable Communications Capabilities; Strengthen CBRNE Detection, Response and Decontamination Capabilities; and Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities.

In Arizona, 80 percent of federal homeland security grants fund local and regional projects. The State has also dedicated grant funds to enhance protection and response capabilities statewide. Priority projects in Arizona include:

- **Personal Protective Equipment for First Responders.** One of Arizona's priority homeland security initiatives is to provide its firefighters, policemen, emergency managers, public safety personnel and other first responders with the equipment they need to safely enter dangerous situations.
- **Rapid Response Teams.** Arizona has used federal funding to train and equip Rapid Response Teams. Strategically located throughout the state, RRTs can provide immediate incident response to support local response efforts. RRT members are trained to work with hazardous materials and perform technical rescue operations.
- **Arizona's Intelligence Fusion Center.** Governor Napolitano opened the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) in 2004 as the state's central analysis hub for real-time crime and terrorism-related intelligence and information, staffed with more than 200 detectives, special agents, analysts and other personnel representing more than 34 state, local and federal agencies. ACTIC was the first state fusion center to

include complete integration of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

- **Improving Ability for First Responders to Communicate.** In the state's southern counties, homeland security grants have enabled public safety officers and emergency responders along the border to communicate with one another on during emergencies, despite disparate radios. Additionally, five mobile communications vans are pre-positioned throughout the state to address radio communications interoperability statewide. Additional ongoing interoperability efforts include upgrading of existing radio towers sites throughout the state and the installation of audio bridges and "patching" technology.
- **Training and Exercising.** Arizona conducts some of the largest and most robust training exercises in the country to test first responders and incident management. In the past four years, Arizona has conducted dozens of tabletop and full-scale training exercises that involved hundreds of first responders, including four statewide exercises. In 2004 alone, homeland security grants funded the training of 2,300 emergency responders across the state on topics ranging from incident management and handling hazardous materials to evacuating special needs populations during emergencies.
- **Target Hardening and Critical Infrastructure.** Arizona's Threat and Vulnerability Assessment teams work with both the private and public sector to evaluate potential terrorist targets and make recommendations on what additional security measures might be needed.

In addition to the homeland security advances made at the local and state levels with federal funding, Arizona has led efforts to improve preparedness and response efforts through a strengthening of relationships within the state, with neighboring states and with Mexico:

- Arizona has established Mutual Aid Agreements between all 15 counties, with neighboring states, and sister-city agreements between Arizona-Mexico border cities to more readily share resources during disasters.
- Arizona was the first state in the nation to conduct a bi-national border security exercise with Mexico.
- Arizona has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with California, New Mexico and Texas to share intelligence information and to conduct joint exercises involving their state intelligence fusion centers.

Arizona is one of five states to receive recognition through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for emergency preparedness that meets national standards. To achieve this full accreditation, Arizona documented compliance with 54 national standards in 15 functional areas, including: planning and procedures; resource management; training; exercise, evaluations and corrective actions; and communications and warning. Arizona was the second state to receive EMAP accreditation.